

SGB backs Faculty House employees

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Student Governing Board released a statement Thursday encouraging its member groups to stop reserving space at the Faculty House to support the cause of the Faculty House workers, who have been negotiating over their contracts since last March.

David Fine, CC '13 and president of SGB, said his board decided to take action after seeing the rally organized by the Student-Worker Solidarity group on Feb. 8.

SWS has been meeting with Faculty House workers and Labor Relations administrators since the beginning of December to discuss what they consider unfair contracts.

Fine said the group applied for recognition as an “individual coalition” before its protest last Friday—a step that groups can take if they are not yet officially recognized by SGB but want help organizing an event. This served as a temporary group recognition, Fine said, and brought the issue to the attention of the SGB.

“The reason why the board felt the need to do this is that we consider Faculty House part of the Columbia Community, and we are part of the Columbia community, and what’s going on there, the labor issues do not align

SEE SGB, page 2



SELBY BYASHIMOVA FOR SPECTATOR

ON A SOAPBOX | Gabrielle Davenport, BC '15, speaks at a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Barnard’s Africana Studies Program.

University Senate plans quality of life survey

BY RUBY MELLEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Outside sources often rank Columbia among the most stressful schools in the country, but now the University Senate wants to find out what students actually think about their quality of life.

The senate released a pilot survey to about 100 students

on Thursday that aims to assess students’ satisfaction with their lives at Columbia. Approximately five to 10 students from each school received the survey for the test period, and the senate will send out the final survey to all 28,000 University students in April.

The survey, which will be the first distributed by the senate to reach out to all students affiliated

with the University, will remain open for 10 to 15 days. The mass distribution marks an effort to acknowledge the existence of a shared Columbia community, said Richard Sun, CC '13 and co-chair of the senate student affairs committee, which oversaw the survey’s creation.

Sun stressed the importance of this University-wide uniformity in the construction of the

survey. While the senate considered school-specific “branching” for the survey, it chose to keep the survey identical across all schools.

“There’s this notion of a shared Columbia community, but oftentimes, there’s a distinction between the schools,” Sun said. “And I think oftentimes,

SEE SURVEY, page 2

Barnard Africana Studies rebounds

After troubled past, program celebrates 20th anniversary

BY SAMANTHA COONEY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When Kim Hall became director of Barnard’s Africana Studies Program in 2006, she was its only tenured faculty member and ran the program entirely out of her cramped office on the fourth floor of Barnard Hall.

“The program had kind of been neglected by the college and ran into problems with leadership,” Hall, now a professor of English and Africana studies, said.

The program, which has found success in recent years, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this week with events dedicated to the works of Ntozake Shange, BC '70, a poet whose work grapples with race and gender.

English Professor Monica Miller was interested in the program when she joined Barnard’s faculty in 2001, but she said that the curriculum was scattered.

“When I first came here, the Africana Studies Program was in a lot of trouble,” Miller said, citing a lack of successful faculty. “It also had a lot to do with diversity

SEE AFRICANA, page 3

NEWS BRIEF

In UWS City Council race, Landis nets health care union endorsement

Upper West Side City Council candidate Marc Landis was endorsed by 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East Wednesday—one of the first union endorsements of the race.

1199, the largest and fastest growing union in the city, represents over 350,000 members on the East Coast, according to a statement.

“Marc Landis has a proven record as a progressive activist dedicated to improving our public schools, creating good jobs, advocating for affordable and accessible health care and protecting affordable housing for the working families of New York City,” George Gresham, president of 1199, said in the statement. Gresham stressed Landis’ stature in the party and his pro bono legal work.

Landis said in an interview that the endorsement signals he is “the candidate who can best represent the needs of working families, people who are trying to maintain existence in New York City.” He said his goals, such as maintaining long-term affordable housing and improving health care quality and access, are aimed to support the working and middle classes.

Landis said that he has taken practical steps to achieve his vision, including organizing tenants’ associations and joining a coalition of parents to push the Department of Education to open a new high school on the Upper West

Side. Members of 1199 have worked with him before and recognize his commitment to these goals, Landis said.

“It’s easy for somebody to be in favor of all these things,” he said. “It’s a lot harder to do the work necessary to bring them about.”

The greatest challenge for his campaign moving forward, Landis said, will be “engaging workers” to appreciate the work and capacities of the City Council.

Daniel Marks Cohen, Morningside Heights State Democratic Committee member, said that while 1199 was a “politically powerful union” with many members on the Upper West Side, other endorsements might be more critical.

“People are not so influenced by unions,” Marks Cohen said. “I think 1199’s endorsement is important for any candidate, but the Times’ endorsement will be more important.”

The highly contested race marks the first time the seat, council District 6, is open in 12 years. Council member Gale Brewer is term-limited this year and running for Manhattan Borough President.

Landis’ opponents are former Community Board 7 chairs Mel Wymore and Helen Rosenthal, local businessman Ken Biberaj, and Democratic State Committeewoman Debra Cooper.

—Avantika Kumar and
Eva Kalikoff

City looks to slow traffic on Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.

BY CHRISTIAN ZHANG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The city’s Department of Transportation outlined plans to expand traffic-calming measures on Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard, one of Harlem’s most accident-prone streets, at a Community Board 10 committee meeting Wednesday.

The proposal includes widening parking lanes, building pedestrian shelters along medians, and adding additional traffic signals on Adam Clayton Powell from 135th Street down to 110th Street. The DOT also wants to renovate the six-way intersection at 116th Street and Saint Nicholas Avenue to improve pedestrian safety.

But local residents are asking for more research to be done after voicing concerns that the measures will cause even more traffic congestion along one of Central Harlem’s main business corridors.

After implementing similar measures last year further north on Adam Clayton Powell—between 135th and 155th streets—DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione said collisions have decreased by 32 percent.

At the intersection of 116th Street, Adam Clayton Powell, and Saint Nicholas, the DOT is proposing enlarging pedestrian shelters, adding left turn signals,

SEE TRAFFIC, page 3



LUCAS ALVARADO-FARRAR FOR SPECTATOR

This Weekend: Polar Bears and turtle necks

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Deputy Weekend Editor

Plunge into the weekend by getting to know the Coney Island Polar Bear Club, a winter bathing organization that’s been dipping their toes into the frosty Atlantic for over a hundred years. If you’re feeling inspired, you can even go join them Sunday (and as long as you’re in Brooklyn, use our guide to Greenpoint for a bonus adventure.)

However, in case aquatics aren’t your style, we’re rounded up land-locked bears in the city that are also worthy of

attention. Though Millie just missed the list, a bear named Gus who’s endured the equivalent of a real-life ursine soap opera should be enough to make up for it.

In case style’s your style, Abby Mitchell reports back from NY Fashion Week with the newest trends. One unexpected item fashion columnist Jonah Weinstein thinks should be a trend? Turtle necks. Winter ain’t over yet, buddy, and that neck of yours needs protecting.

Winter’s not over yet, so while you’re out seeing all these sights, it’s important to protect your neck—and this week, fashion columnist Jonah Weinberg

makes a case for a turtle neck revival. In Noshin’ on the Big Apple, Krista White cures a bout of homesickness by noshing in the Big Apple.

If that’s not enough, there’s plenty more watch, eat, and listen to thanks to our coverage of foreign film (and Cannes highlight) Like Someone in Love, new eatery Café Tallulah, and the upcoming Stefon Harris concert at Miller—among other things.

So yeah, if you claim to be bored this weekend, you have only yourself to blame.

SEE WEEKEND,
pages B1-B4

Men’s swimming to face Tigers at home

PHIL GODZIN
Spectator Staff Writer

The men’s swimming and diving team (7-2, 4-2 Ivy) will face its toughest test of the year in Friday’s regular season finale, as it tries to extend its six-meet winning streak against the No.

22 Princeton Tigers. The meet has added significance as graduating seniors Jason Collazo, Richard Fineman, Patrick Dougherty, and John Wright will swim their final laps in Uris Pool, where the Lions remain undefeated in all four home meets.

This last trial for the team will be the culmination of a season marked by an impressive turnaround. After losing two of their first three meets against Harvard and Yale, two teams that finished ahead of them

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OPINION, PAGE 4

Essential economics

CU should implement a mandatory economics course, Joshua Fattal writes.

Loving oneself

Andrea Garcia-Vargas gives her perspective on love and self-love.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions look to build off Sunday’s victory

After defeating Harvard last weekend, the Lions are looking to build some momentum as they travel to Brown and Yale this weekend.

EVENTS

CU Ballroom presents: Free Argentine Tango Class

Argentine Tango performer Anais Haven leads an introductory class.
Lerner Hall Party Space, 7:30 p.m.

SEOUL Food!

Join the Latino and Korean student associations for food and conversation.
Lerner Hall Room C555, 9 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



50°/34°

Tomorrow



41°/23°

Upper West Side tops city in rat complaints

BY EVA KALIKOFF
Spectator Staff Writer

The Upper West Side is officially rat central.

From 2010 to 2012, 1,183 people on the Upper West Side reported rat sightings to the city's 311 hotline, making it the neighborhood with the most reported sightings in the entire city.

Anti-rat activists say there are many reasons for the rodent rampage: an abundance of parks in the neighborhood, the tree-filled Broadway medians, and common mishandling of garbage. City Council member Gale Brewer and members of Community Board 7 said that they hope to curb the rat population through a variety of new educational programs and physical changes on the Upper West Side.

"We get constant complaints of rats," Brewer said, citing a town hall meeting she held in December at John Jay College. A large number of the residents who spoke at the meeting complained about having seen rats around their neighborhood, and in general, Brewer said she has heard an outcry to do something specific to fix the problem.

"If you want to see rats, go to 114th and 8th Ave. That block is awful," said Carolina Frederico, an Upper West Side resident who said she has seen "really big rats, like the size of cats" while walking her dog in Morningside Park.

At the December town hall, Brewer brought up the implementation of new BigBelly solar compactors, which can be used to help fight rats. The BigBelly cans are completely closed off, and when new trash is put in, it

automatically crushes the trash below, allowing a single can to hold more garbage and preventing overflows onto the sidewalk. So far, they are being added to Verdi Square at 72nd Street.

Several garbage cans in Riverside Park have also been changed out for rodent-proof garbage cans, CB7 district manager Penny Ryan said. These rodent-proof bins are not the expensive BigBelly brand but rather just a simple design with thick slats that fan out at the top.

"It's not just an Upper West Side infestation. It's everywhere."

—Penny Ryan
CB7 district manager

"We inspect Morningside Park and the rest of our parks daily, and looking for rat burrows is one of the items we inspect for," Phil Abramson, deputy director of public affairs at the city Parks Department, said in an email.

He said the department is using both the ratproof cans and a method of rodent control known as Integrated Pest Management, which involves removing rats' food source and shelter and baiting them.

Both Ryan and Brewer said many block associations have come forward to ask for help with getting rid of rats, which has led to the creation of "Rat Academies" and "Rat Walks" run

by the Department of Health and the Department of Sanitation.

The academies are held about once or twice a year and serve as educational forums for residents and business owners to learn how to handle garbage and keep buildings ratproof. The walks are group walk-throughs of neighborhoods to look for problem areas and issues that may be causing a spike in the rat population.

Jason Rosario, who was walking his dog in Morningside Park on Wednesday, said that he has never seen any rats in the park and sees them "mostly at night after stores don't put their trash out properly."

Both CB7 members and Brewer agree that targeting stores and restaurants may be the most effective way to battle the rat problem. Brewer is sponsoring an event in April at Fairway Market on 74th Street and Broadway to inform business owners about garbage disposal and to educate them about the congregation of rats around the Broadway medians.

Ryan pointed out the reality that there are problems with rats throughout the city.

"It's not just an Upper West Side infestation. It's everywhere. It's something that is going on all over Manhattan," she said.

There is also the possibility that the number of sightings reported is not an accurate reflection of the actual sightings in each neighborhood, but rather of how quick the residents are to report their issues.

"That's what's great about our neighborhood," Brewer said. "It's very active."

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OLACHI OLERU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TELL ME MORE | University Senator Richard Sun, CC '13, is one of the senators planning the survey.

USenate releases pilot of University-wide survey

SURVEY from front page

there are issues that kind of cut across the different boundaries, and I think that's what we're trying to address."

However, Sun said that while he hopes the survey will collect data for the entire University, he believes that it will also reveal school- and demographic-specific stress levels. In analyzing the survey results, the senate will pay attention to specifics such as an individual's school, marital status, and financial situation.

Ashley Martin, a doctoral student in the Business School's management program and the research coordinator for the project, stressed the importance of crafting a survey that was unbiased toward any school and clear in its phrasing.

"Hopefully, it's going to be so unbiased that the data will speak for itself and tell us what we need to put into this school," she said.

While the senate is not expecting any specific results, the survey's creators have high hopes for the project.

"It's a learning experience," Senator Akshay Shah, SEAS '14, said, emphasizing that the survey would help identify the

issues students care about.

After the students share their concerns, Shah said, the senate can use the data to do further research through discussion groups or more specific surveys that could have an eventual effect on policy.

After the survey is launched in April, the senate plans to distribute it once every two years in order to maintain an up-to-date analysis of student sentiments.

The pilot survey distributed to select students on Thursday also aims to assess the effectiveness of the survey and the questions themselves. It asks such evaluative questions as, "Were any of these questions confusing, offensive or hard to understand? Did you encounter any mistakes? Please elaborate below."

The main challenges the senate expects to face lie in level of student participation and data effectiveness.

Some students said they thought the surveys were likely to get a skewed response simply because of the time required to fill them out.

"You're probably not going to get the satisfied population of Columbia but rather the dissatisfied," Olivia Lopez-Balboa, CC

'15, said. "It's easy to complain, but it's hard to explain why you're complaining and justify those qualms."

Lindsay Roberts, a Business School student, agreed that the survey would likely disproportionately attract those who feel unhappy with Columbia.

"Most students do not really read emails from the University, let alone will take time out of their day to fill out a survey," she said. "Those who do fill out a survey on quality of life will generally be people who are likely so unhappy with the quality of life that they are willing to do the survey."

However, Sun said that the feedback the senate received during the creation of the survey was mostly positive.

"It's made for students by students," Sun said. "Just from the level of interest and sign-ups for the pilot, people seem to be very excited already."

Shah agreed, adding that he feels strongly that the survey could have a big impact on students' lives.

"It's really passionate in our hearts," he said. "I really hope it brings up good changes."
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FILE PHOTO

SGB SOLIDARITY | Student Governing Board Chair David Fine, CC '13, said that his board decided to take action after seeing the rally organized by Student-Worker Solidarity on Feb. 8.

Activists call for larger Faculty House boycott

SGB from front page

with the values that we believe Columbia tries to uphold," Fine said.

Jane Brennan, CC '14 and a member of SWS, said she was glad to hear that SGB would be supporting the workers' cause.

"The biggest problem with Faculty House right now is that the tip is 22 percent, but it doesn't go to the workers," Brennan said. "When Columbia groups reserve space, they're not dealing with the money themselves. If a professor eats at the faculty house, they can choose to give the tip in cash, but the students can't do that."

Fine said he doesn't know how many student groups use space in the Faculty House, but he thinks the statement serves a symbolic as well as a logistic purpose.

"I hope it will create momentum around trying to solve these labor issues," he said. "I think it's bad for the community to be in a protracted labor dispute, and some of the allegations that the workers have made are pretty disturbing."

Another issue with the Faculty House, Fine said, is its

high cost. He added that students "basically have to order catering from them or you get another penalty," and according to the 2012 Faculty House menu, coffee service for an event costs \$7.50 per person.

"This is a matter of upholding the spirit of the Columbia community and making sure people are treated fairly."

—David Fine, CC '13
SGB Chair

"I understand it's one of the nicer venues at Columbia," he said. "But the fact that it's so expensive and the fact that they have these labor issues just doesn't look good. A place that costs so much shouldn't have trouble treating its employees well."

The Faculty House contract negotiations can last

one more month before the workers' health insurance runs out, Brennan said, which would create a "more drastic situation." Right now, SWS hopes this support from SGB will put more pressure on the University.

"This shows that this cause isn't just some leftist, anthropology department movement, but this is something that all Columbia students can care about," George Joseph, CC '16 and another member of SWS, said.

Brennan said that if negotiations continue, "there might be a call for a larger boycott or something," but that SWS was not at that point yet.

SGB specifically avoided taking more permanent or forceful action such as a boycott, Fine said, emphasizing that the statement is a recommendation and not a change in policy.

"We understand, we're sympathetic to Faculty House and their concerns, but this is a matter of upholding the spirit of the Columbia community and making sure people are treated fairly," Fine said.

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Stringer visits local Democratic group meeting

BY EVA KALIKOFF
Spectator Staff Writer

Election season is well underway in New York, and the vote-rich, liberal Upper West Side will be a prize for any candidate.

The neighborhood's importance was on display Wednesday night when a host of prominent New York politicians visited the local Three Parks Independent Democrats meeting to discuss plans for the 2013 elections.

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, City Council member Inez Dickens, State Senator and Democratic Conference leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and State Senator Adriano Espaillat spoke and took questions from the audience of club members and interested Upper West Siders.

Stringer, who is running for city comptroller, was the event's most prominent attendee. Although he is currently the only candidate in the race, Stringer is still touring the city to convince residents they should vote for him in the September Democratic primary and November general election.

"There's a sense that in this city right now, City Hall is not listening to the people who have traditionally been the backbone of this city," he said. "The job of comptroller has never been more important."

Stringer stressed his record as borough president, specifically how he conducted reports to keep several city agencies in check.

"The job of comptroller is to watch the money, watch the

agencies, and to make sure that when public policy is going in the wrong direction, you have the power of audit and soapbox and real opportunity to make this city run better," Stringer said.

Merle McEldowney, a Three Parks board member, said she was impressed with Stringer's speech, especially his comments about holding city agencies accountable.

"We're beginning a journey of strengthening our Democratic conference."

—Andrea Stewart-Cousins,
State Senate Democratic leader

"For a public official to do those things, you need to have the public behind you, and I think he will have the public with him," McEldowney said.

Stewart-Cousins discussed the current political climate in the State Senate, which since December has been controlled by a coalition of Republicans and a breakaway group of Independent Democrats.

"We're beginning a journey of strengthening our Democratic conference," now in the minority, Stewart-Cousins said. "You will see me again, hopefully as

the majority leader next time."

Dickens addressed the fact that redistricting, under the latest draft maps, will eliminate Morningside Heights and the Upper West Side from her purview.

"I will no longer be your City Council member," she said, listing her accomplishments to applause from the crowd.

Espaillat discussed his plans for the coming year, including a bill that would index minimum wage so that it would automatically increase each year. He also talked about working toward universal pre-kindergarten programs.

The panel touched on a wide range of issues, from gun control to hydrofracking. Linda DeMeo, an Upper West Side resident who is not part of the club, came to find out how to act on the issue of solitary confinement in prisons.

"It's very costly and deplorable," she said. "Not enough has been done about it."

During Stewart-Cousins' question-and-answer session, DeMeo asked about her stance on the issue and was happy to find that the senator cared about it. DeMeo said she will now reach out to Stewart-Cousins' office to push for further action.

Three Parks, which represents the Manhattan Valley area, will be endorsing candidates later this year.

"I have a hunch that anyone who gets Three Parks' endorsement will be the next comptroller," Stringer joked.

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AFRICANA | Above, Sarah Esser, BC '15, presents at the Africana celebration, and below, Gabrielle Davenport, BC '15, Gladyn Innocent, BC '14, and Ebonie Smith, BC '07, perform music.

Africana Studies now ‘has a home at Barnard’

AFRICANA from front page

issues at the college,” she added. The program went through a period of rapid turnover and, according to Miller, was held together entirely by advocacy of faculty members and students that wanted to see it succeed. “It shouldn’t have been that hard to be studying African-American and African diaspora culture,” Miller said. “My experience at Barnard was challenging for me,” Shange said. She tried to transfer out because there was no Africana program when she was a student. Still, she said, “I was heartened by my stay here. For the first time, I felt intellectually validated.” “My experience here was wonderful and terrible,” she added. Finally, Hall was hired to revitalize the program, changing the curriculum to incorporate women’s and gender studies. With the help of the administration, Hall organized a cluster hire that brought in professors Celia Naylor, Yvette Christiansë, and Tina Campt, who took over as director a few years later. “There was a really energetic group of faculty and students that wanted the college to

pay more attention to Africana Studies and rebuild it,” Hall said. Faculty members who have seen the program evolve said that the 20th anniversary celebration event is about thanking the students who helped make the program succeed. “Because the program was one, like many Africana and African-American studies programs across the country, that was lobbied for and fought for by students, we wanted Barnard alums—in particular, alums that were associated with this program—to see how much has happened in the last 20 years,” Miller said. On Thursday night, alums returned to Barnard to watch an original performance by current students inspired by Shange’s work, organized by Ebonie Smith, BC ’07 and an Africana studies major. Faculty will discuss Shange’s work in relation to the program’s curriculum at a conference with noted scholars on Friday. “We’ve developed a very clear specialization in Africana gender studies, and the scholars that we have here now make us the strongest place to do that in the country. It’s time for the students to get a sense to that,” Hall said.

“There’s a sense that Africana has a home at Barnard, which it didn’t really have before,” she added. The program has plans to keep expanding. According to Campt, faculty members are working to elevate the program to department-level status. Campt credits this recent development to the program’s ability to educate students outside their major and really play a role in shaping the entire Barnard curriculum. “That’s where we’re seeing our impact as being the broadcast,” Campt said. “If we continue to do that, then I think we’ll be an extremely successful department.” Student attendees said they appreciated how Shange had impacted the department. “I think she’s really important because she shows how much influence there was on the need and want to have an Africana Studies program,” Zai Gilles, BC ’14, said. “It just shows how influential politics are on building different departments.” “It shows that we need to keep fighting to maintain these programs,” Dina Tyson, BC ’13, said.

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Locals divided over Adam Clayton traffic calming

TRAFFIC from front page

and converting middle-of-the-road parking spots to roadside parallel parking spots. Forgione said the DOT had planned on implementing the measures by May, but meeting attendees said more research needed to be done on the impact of the changes. Barbara Nelson, assistant secretary of CB10, said that the reduced accident rates reported by the DOT only come from two months of data, and that the measures have caused an increase in cars while failing to improve safety. “We slowed down the traffic, but it’s not safer,” Nelson said. “We should not have a phase two when we have a phase one that doesn’t even have complete information.” Nelson, who said she drives regularly in the area, is also concerned that the project will reduce the number of parking spaces available and that the wider parking lanes will essentially reduce Adam Clayton Powell to having one lane per direction. She also said the large number of trucks and buses that stop in the wider parking lanes means pedestrians, especially children, would have to walk into the road just to look for oncoming traffic. Forgione said that “the project is saving lives and making it safer, so we don’t want to wait month after month” to implement it. CB10 member Melvin Christian said he felt safer on Adam Clayton Powell above 135th Street, where the traffic control measures have been implemented. But other attendees also remained skeptical of the measures’

ability to improve safety. Lupe Moreno, also a CB10 member, said that the DOT should fix the constantly malfunctioning streetlights on Adam Clayton Powell, which she finds more dangerous than traffic. “If they have so much money,” she said, “why don’t they fix the lights?” Moreno also said that the number of potholes in the area made driving difficult. Forgione said that “it is pothole season now,” and that the city will work to fix potholes as quickly as possible. Despite disagreements over what to do, CB10 and the DOT still share a common goal, Nelson said. “We’re really just making the corridor safer,” she said. christian.zhang@columbiaspectator.com



KIMBERLY FLORES / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SLOW IT DOWN | The city Department of Transportation is looking to install more traffic-calming measures on Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard, but residents are divided on the tools’ effectiveness.

SPEC NEWS



NOT HAVING IT SINCE 1877

Feminist to the Core

from the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Monday, February 18
12-1:00 pm
754 Schermerhorn Extension

Teodolinda Barolini,
Da Ponte Professor of Italian
on
Dante’s Inferno

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BY JOSHUA FATTAL

Adam Smith has left me wanting. Reading excerpts from the famous “Wealth of Nations” for Contemporary Civilization, I am overtaken with an appreciation for the complexity of the formation of the modern political economy. And yet, I remain without an understanding of how that economy actually works.

Economics will be a daily part of my life no matter what career I embark on; it is a daily part of all of our lives. Where’s the Core requirement preparing every Columbia student for this reality? We are required to learn literature, philosophy, science, history, lan- guage, art, and music—but not economics. A subject this fundamental and this necessary must be added to the Core Curriculum if the Core is to remain true to its founding objectives.

The Core was not always so detached from this field. In 1928, Contemporary Civilization was divided into two courses, CC-A and CC-B. CC-A is what we think of as CC now, but CC-B emphasized “the ques- tion of making a living in the United States.” In 1932, the onset of the Great Depression made it necessary for CC-B to include questions about the “nation’s eco- nomic security and survival.” But by 1961, CC-B was placed on hold as a requirement because both stu- dents and teachers struggled to adequately understand subjects that ranged from economics to sociology to psychology without any prior foundation. “They could not, for example, properly understand what Keynes was saying without the foundation of a previous course in economic theory,” Dean Carl Hovde wrote

in 1961. By 1968, because it had for so long struggled to define its aims and received affection from neither instructors nor students, CC-B was dropped.

CC-B evidently had its flaws. But instead of drop- ping the course entirely, the college should have dropped its challengingly broad nature and focused the course solely on modern economic theory and practice. Hovde was right to recognize that an unin- tiated student cannot properly understand Keynes— but this does not mean that Keynes is not important enough to warrant understanding. It is remarkable that the college has not found economics to be part of “the necessary general education for students”—the Core’s founding mission.

In today’s college, a student who is not an econ major is never required to learn the basics of economics.

Economics will be a part of a student’s life no mat- ter what field he or she decides to enter. It will be as important as CC for understanding the foundations of today’s society. It will be as necessary as Music and Art Humanities are for dinner party conversation. And on top of this, an understanding of economics will be useful both theoretically and practically. The best the Core could do is enable students to both ap- preciate the theoretical brilliance in the clouds and implement that brilliance practically in the world

Love thyself

I can’t deny that every time Valentine’s Day comes around, I think about being with another per- son. I think about whether I’ll switch that status on Facebook to “in a re- lationship.” I think about kissing the crap out of someone on the Sundial (screw the PDA haters).

But yesterday, when I walked down the aisles of Duane Reade and my eyes glazed over in front of the heart-shaped boxes, the reds, the whites, and the pretty pinks, I was thinking about myself as much as I was thinking about anyone else.

If there’s anything I learned at one point in my past four years at Columbia, it’s that love needs to be, first and foremost, love for yourself.

I had to learn that lesson very, very hard one time. I learned it when I was in an emotionally abusive relationship that took a toll on me, my sleep, and my grades. From the beginning, the person constantly made comments about my sexual history. Jokes like, “You’ve probably done half the school.” Jokes like, “I’m afraid of getting AIDS from you.” I told myself they were just jokes. The mere fact that he thought I was important enough to be jealous over made me proud, self-important, and fulfilled as much as it made me feel uncomfortable.

Over time, the person became withdrawn when we were together. The jokes became more pronounced, more deliberately hurtful. He became more depressed, and at the same time, more aggressive. I tried to help him, tried to convince him that I could support him. When he continued to get more depressed and equally more verbally hurtful, I blamed myself.

To be fair, he had many other problems that anyone else would have crumbled under. This column is a trun- cated description of the relationship—one in which I focus on the bad, because that is what is relevant. The beautiful and wonderful aspects of it simply won’t fit in 800 words, and aren’t relevant to the lessons I learned. I hope he is in a better place now, and I forgive him.

But to be just to myself, none of what happened was fair to me—and that took me a while to realize.

I recognized it for what it was months after it was over. I remember I was eating a Belgian waffle in Artopolis when it hit me. I don’t quite remember how it all clicked, but it did. I had degraded myself so horribly, I had failed to notice how twisted the relationship dy- namic had become. I had stuck through because drop- ping out would have felt like a failure on my part.



ANDREA GARCÍA-VARGAS

The Elephant in the Room

down below.

In today’s college, a student who is not an econ major is never required to learn the basics of econom- ics. One can opt to take Principles of Economics, a class as quantitative as it is qualitative, but he or she will still not gain a working understanding of today’s economy. More concrete and practical classes, such as The American Economy, are only available for stu- dents who have taken the necessary prerequisites.

The college should offer a mandatory one-semester course that begins with the theoretical develop- ment of modern economics, tackles the American economy, and takes a look at the global economy as a whole. Such a class should be quantitative enough to enable students to understand the inner workings of what they are learning, but qualitative enough so that students can truly comprehend how the economy functions and make use of this knowledge in today’s world. There are many qualified professors to teach this—and the subject has perhaps never been as im- portant for young adults to grasp as now.

I say all this as a history major, in search of an edu- cation that will stimulate my mind in both tangible and intangible ways. There is currently a gaping hole in the Core Curriculum, and an educational institu- tion committed to teaching all its students the neces- sary knowledge for global citizenship cannot afford to remain blinded to one of the most important sub- jects. Just ask Adam Smith.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in history.

That was the wettest, saddest Belgian waffle I’ve ever eaten, and I’ll never forget it.

Yes, selflessness is beautiful in theory. Yes, going out on a limb for someone else going through depression, anxiety, and a combination of any other issues might make you feel a little better inside, and might even help him. But before you can love another person, you need to love yourself.

It sounds so obvious—as obvious as “the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.” But it’s not. Otherwise, I would’ve dropped out of my relationship when the go- ing got bad.

We’re basing our self-worth on what someone else may or may not think about us.

I’m not saying that not loving yourself or not ap- preciating yourself as much as you should means you’ll end up in an emotionally abusive relationship. My an- ecdote is an extreme—which I know is more common on this campus than people might expect, unfortunat- uly. And then there are the more familiar feelings that many of us, including myself, have experienced in our lives: feeling rebuffed when someone doesn’t respond to a text, overanalyzing an emoticon to conclude that the person might not like us so much after all, hurting from the pangs of heartbreak when someone doesn’t like us back.

It’s always the same thing. We’re basing our self- worth on what someone else may or may not think about us. I’ve heard it from my friends many times. I see it on Columbia Admirers all the time: confessions to a secret crush with self-deprecating jabs at the end. It’s a bad habit that takes us ages to get rid of, that took me ages to get rid of.

Valentine’s Day just passed, and you’ve probably heard enough about it—but allow me one last word. If there’s anything I can take away from this holiday this year, next year, years from now, it’s that as hard as it is for me, for anyone, to achieve self-love, it’s one of the few types of love that, once we reach it, will always keep us going.

Andrea García-Vargas is a Columbia College senior majoring in English literature and creative writing. She is a former Spectator editorial page editor. The Elephant in the Room runs alternate Fridays.



ILLUSTRATION BY JIYOON HAN

STAFF EDITORIAL

Full disclosure in Manhattanville

Columbia’s long-awaited hiring statistics for Manhattanville indicate promising results: In the first three years of construction, minority-, women-, or locally owned firms have completed more than two-thirds of the work. These fig- ures exceed the stipulations of the Community Benefits Agreement that the University signed in 2009, which stipulates that 35 percent of contracts should go to MWL firms. That both the expectations were surpassed is impres- sive, and it represents an important step to- ward building trust between Columbia and Manhattanville residents.

However, we have to wonder whether these results accurately depict the University’s hir- ing practices for Manhattanville. As Executive Vice President of Facilities Joe Ienuso told Spectator last week, the numbers released cover only non-specialty projects, meaning they do not include “a big bulk of the work” at the site, like the slurry wall and the energy plant. Ienuso said that there are “not many, if any, minority or local firms that do that work” (“Administration releases Manhattanville hir- ing statistics,” Feb. 11). While we understand that there may not be as wide a selection of contractors from which to pick for specialty work, we hope the University is staying true to the spirit of the CBA and that it is selecting MWL firms as often as possible.

Columbia released the numbers only after City Council candidate Vince Morgan, SIPA ’06 and an outspoken watchdog of the expansion, called for an investigation, and after the Empire State Development Corporation announced that it would conduct a review of hiring prac- tices in Manhattanville. We are pleased that an entity separate from the University will look into whether it is meeting its stated goals, but we are concerned that a report from the ESDC will not adequately satisfy the expansion’s crit- ics. The ESDC is the same agency that, in 2008, deemed Manhattanville “blighted,” paving the way for Columbia’s controversial use of emi- nent domain in acquiring parts of the 17-acre campus.

This is far from the first time Columbia’s implementation of the CBA has been called into question. In late 2011, the West Harlem Development Corporation, which, as out- lined in the CBA, is charged with injecting \$76 million of Columbia’s money into the local economy, faced a barrage of criticism over its effectiveness. In response, it hired an executive director, located a permanent office, estab- lished a functional website, and began allocat- ing the funds.

We hope that the University itself takes a more transparent approach in order to paint a fuller picture of hiring practices across all aspects of Manhattanville. That should include releasing a report on specialty projects’ hiring statistics and detailing the availability of MWL firms in these areas of construction. It could also mean asking another third party to moni- tor hiring practices, considering locals’ distrust in the ESDC.

We are glad to see construction at Manhattanville moving forward as fast as it is, and we just hope that we can finally put any and all legal concerns behind us in order to fo- cus on welcoming an exciting new campus.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission, we will contact you via email.

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Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

4	8	5	9	7	3	1	6	2
1	2	3	8	5	6	7	4	9
6	7	9	1	4	2	8	3	5
5	6	2	7	3	8	4	9	1
8	9	4	2	1	5	3	7	6
3	1	7	4	6	9	2	5	8
9	3	1	5	8	4	6	2	7
7	5	6	3	2	1	9	8	4
2	4	8	6	9	7	5	1	3

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		1			4		2	
	7			5				1
		9						7
	8							1
2						5		
6			2				9	
	3		4			6		
9		3			7			

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 AOL, and NetZero

5 Alley litters

9 Like some questions

14 Medieval defense

15 Slim woodwind

16 Having a designated assignment

17 Intangible quality

18 Rise dramatically

19 Capital name derived from an Arabic term for "the conqueror"

20 Catch that's burnt sienna and cornmeal?

23 "Platoon" war zone

24 Peevish mood

25 Battery terminal

27 Not just search for

30 Adenoid, e.g.

31 Reclassification of 2006

32 Souffle recipe word

33 One of the Smurfs

36 The world total was approx. \$70 trillion in 2011

37 Paid, endorser, in slang, and an apt title for this puzzle

40 Say nothing good about

41 Dating from 43 "... uncertain world ..."

44 Hit on the head

46 Napery

48 Charley, in Steinbeck's "Travels With Charley"

49 Tax-exempt entity, usually

51 Erp

52 "... So Fine": Chiffons hit

53 Result of Pepsi shortages?

58 Roll out of bed

60 Dollar alternative

61 Airline with blue-striped jets

62 Slips through the cracks

63 They may be loaded

64 Rest area rerder

65 Dog in a horned helmet

66 Chatty bovines?

67 Nailed obliquely

DOWN

1 Eye-catching

Apple

2 Grow displeased

3 Normal beginning?

4 Patronizes, in a way

5 Herding dog

6 Member of the Kaiser's fleet

7 Helport site

8 Wink without batting an eye?

9 Marina Del Rey craft

10 Author LeShan

11 Bootblack's buffer?

12 "WarGames" org.

13 Carol start

21 Victorious

22 Common '80s-'90s failure

26 Cool

27 Stacy Lewis's org.

28 Auto pioneer

29 Spec on an architect's blueprint?

30 Senate wear

32 1975 film sequel

34 Water holder

35 Fantasy author

36 Deceive

39 Near

42 Cone home

45 Least pessimistic

47 Superlatively sweet

48 Stages

49 Opposite of order

50 Shoebill's cousin

51 Ruse

54 New Balance rival

55 Dairy bar

56 Identity

57 Decreased

59 Map from the Bible

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PLANE	SELL	PSST
ROPER	TREO	HOMO
AVIAN	ROES	OLIN
TEAPOT	ADJECTIVE	
ERN	OWE	TOOT
	SERB	SOD
STEP	NIECE	GIVE
WOLF	FECE	ATOR
AMCS	RESILIENT	
BEA	SPY	EGAD
	PIER	ARE
GUINNESS	PRODUCT	
ANTI	MALE	MAJOR
STAN	EVAN	AZURE
HONK	DENT	RESUEW

By Donna S. Levina
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MIKE DISCENZA / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EMERGING THREAT | Junior guard Taylor Ward has proved that she can hit the long range shots as well as take control of the ball on the fast break this season.

Light Blue hosts Brown and Yale this weekend

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

(averaging 13.6 points per game) and Megan Vasquez (9.0 points per game) will lead the Bulldogs’ offense.

“Yale’s guards are also very strong. They are, in some ways, like Sheila Dixon, in that they are hard to keep from getting a shot off once they make up their minds that they are going to take a shot. You really have to work to make sure that you are making the shots as tough as possible,” Nixon said.

While the Lions will need to limit both of their opponents’ production from their perimeter players this

weekend, Brown and Yale will have to contend with Light Blue’s junior guard Taylor Ward and sophomore guard Miwa Tachibana, both of whom have been lighting it up for the Lions from behind the arc in recent games. Against Dartmouth last weekend, Ward and Tachibana combined for five of the Lions’ seven three-pointers on the night, and against Penn on Feb. 1, Tachibana drained two three-pointers and ended the night with 14 points.

But in order for the Lions to pull out their first conference win of the season and third overall win since Dec. 11, Nixon says that the posts need to get

involved and capitalize on scoring opportunities in the paint.

“I think our posts have to really be determined to finish their interior opportunities, whether they are offensive rebound situations or penetrating in dish situations, or even just getting a post move out of the offense. They need to focus on taking high-percentage shots and finishing their opportunities,” he said.

The action starts Friday night at 7 p.m. against Brown and continues on Saturday at 7 p.m. against Yale in Levien Gymnasium.

caroline.bowman@cumbiaspectator.com

Light Blue looks to build off last week’s victory

MEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

well as center Rafael Maia, who averages 11.1 points and 7.4 boards per game in the post for Brown.

“They have enough pieces, they play well at home,” Smith said. “But we definitely have to find a way to defend him better,” he said of McGonagill.

Columbia will face another tough Ivy opponent the next day in New Haven.

Yale is coming off an impressive weekend, in which the Elis went 2-0 on the road and handed Princeton its first Ivy loss.

The Bulldogs’ backcourt has been strong this season, led by Austin Morgan, who averages 11.6 points per game, and Javier Duren, who is the reigning Ivy League Player of the Week.

With the departure of center Greg

Mangano, who was a two-time All-Ivy first-teamer for Yale, the Bulldogs are a little less experienced down low than they were a year ago. Columbia’s big men, especially senior center Mark Cisco and sophomore center Cory Osetkowski, have a chance to give the Lions an edge around the basket.

Osetkowksi in particular is coming off one of his strongest games of the season. The sophomore had 10 points and nine rebounds in Sunday’s win against Harvard.

“Cory, that was hopefully a breakthrough for him too, Harvard,” Smith said. “Cory can be really good, and hopefully this is a step in the right direction.”

Another big factor against Yale, as well as against Brown, will be three-point shooting. The Lions followed up a dismal 3-20 clip from long range against Dartmouth last Friday with an

impressive 9-17 performance in the win over the Crimson, and a big part of that was the shooting of sophomore guard Steve Frankoski.

Frankoski has been one of the Lions’ biggest threats from beyond the arc all season long, and with a 27-point performance on 5-of-7 three-point shooting against Harvard, he showed what he is capable of.

If Frankoski and the rest of the Lions can get hot from three and Osetkowski and Cisco can get things going down low, Columbia will be in a good position to make last Sunday’s win a turning point in what has, so far, been a disappointing start to conference play.

The start time in Providence is set for 7 p.m. on Friday, and the Lions will tip off in New Haven at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

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KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OUTSIDE THREAT | Steve Frankoski has emerged as one of the Ivy League’s most lethal perimeter shooters.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The women’s tennis team will look for its second straight win when it faces Kansas State on the road in Memphis, Tenn. The Lions have not played in two weeks, as the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships were canceled in anticipation of last week’s snowstorm. After falling to Georgia and Oklahoma State in the opening weekend, the Lions are 1-2 on the season, but won big two weekends ago with a 7-0 victory over Florida International University. Kansas State holds a 3-0 record, having defeated William & Mary, Harvard, and Tulsa in the past few weeks. Matches begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

—Ike Clemente Kitman

WOMEN’S SQUASH

Hoping to break a six-match losing streak, the women’s squash team will compete in the Kurtz Cup at the 2013 College Squash Association National Team Championships this weekend. Its first match will be against George Washington on Friday, Feb. 15, at 1:30 p.m. The No. 12 Lions defeated No. 13 George Washington earlier this season 8-1. If it wins the rematch, the Light Blue will go on to face either No. 9 Dartmouth or No. 16 Amherst on Saturday. The Light Blue went 2-3 against teams in the B Division this season, defeating George Washington and Franklin & Marshall, but losing to Dartmouth, Middlebury, and Williams. The Lions have had a disappointing season, winning only three nonconference games. But those three wins came on neutral courts, so the Lions can use that advantage at the championships this week hosted by Yale.

— Mollie Glachus

MEN’S TENNIS

Men’s tennis (2-2) will head to Ithaca, N.Y., looking to improve upon a seventh-place finish from last year’s tournament, this weekend to compete in the Division I ECAC Men’s Indoor Tennis Championship at Cornell. Though Harvard comes in looking to repeat its winning performance in last year’s tournament as the No. 1 seed, the Lions are right behind at No. 2. Columbia also boasts one of the two ranked singles players in the eight-team tournament, No. 60 sophomore Winston Lin. Sophomores Ashok Narayana and Max Schnur—the No. 20 doubles team in the nation—will also be representing the Light Blue as the highest-ranked doubles team in the tournament. The Lions first hit the courts Friday at 11 a.m. and continue play throughout the weekend.

—Kyle Perrotti



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FINAL PUSH | Omar Arafa gets ready to push off and commence the race. The Lions could take second place in the Ivy League if they defeat Princeton.

Lions look for a win against Princeton in final home meet

SWIMMING from front page

last season, the Lions rebounded to go unbeaten since. With one last win, the Lions would overtake the Tigers for second place in the Ivy League behind undefeated Harvard. However, the Tigers’ only loss was against 16th-ranked Harvard, which has gone 12-1 in the past two seasons in Ivy play.

Princeton’s incredible depth will be

tough for the Lions to match, as they have at least two of the Ivy League’s top five times in 10 different individual events this year. The strong quartet of sophomores Dominik Koll, Daniel Gosek, David Jakl, and Kevin Quinn, who have combined for 9 individual wins in the past two meets, will need to be at its best for the Lions to pull off an upset.

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Light Blue needs to find the right fit for defensive coordinator position

CHEUNG from back page

of consistency and continuity, two elements that can potentially lead to a long-lasting relationship.

Take ex-Oregon head coach Chip Kelly, for example, who, after initially rejecting the Philadelphia Eagles in early January, signed a contract with them by the middle of the month. Kelly’s coaching career actually began at Columbia before he bounced around the East Coast and eventually settled down in Oregon, where he has coached since 2007. During his stint with the Ducks, Kelly led the team to three Pac-12 conference championships as well as four Bowl Championship Series game appearances. In Oregon, he established a high-powered offensive system, known as the blur offense, that consistently kept the Ducks’ opponents off balance.

NFL teams have already generated

their own schemes with the blur offense serving as the basis, but how a full-on embracing of this style will fare (let’s not forget that effective college schemes don’t always translate well to the NFL in the long run) remains to be seen. Likewise, we won’t know how Lempa’s replacement will fare with the Lions—that is, whether he can apply the same defensive strategies that Lempa instilled and still get the same, if not better, results as his predecessor. It’s safe to say that most of the time it’s not just about the X’s and O’s, but rather about the man who’s preaching them that makes the difference. When you find the guy who hits it off with the team right off the bat, that’s the guy you want to hang onto.

Here’s hoping the Lions can survive this “breakup.”

Melissa Cheung is a Columbia College sophomore. Closing In runs biweekly.
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PIXBOX

week
3

- 1: Ivy: Columbia @ Brown (+7.5)
2: Ivy: Princeton @ Harvard (+2.5)
3: Ivy: Cornell @ Yale (-4.5)
4: Big East: Pittsburgh @ Marquette (+10.5)
5: NHL: Washington Capitals @ NY Rangers (-1.5)
6: NHL: San Jose Sharks @ Chicago Blackhawks (-1.5)



Sam Tydings (8-4)

LIONS
CHEATERS
RED
STEVE NOVAK
2012 EASTERN
CONFERENCE SILVER
MEDALISTS
HAWKS

Really looking forward to the Shooting Stars

Yolo. Yodo. Yoco.

ROAR
CHEATERS
STATE SCHOOL
MARQUETTE
MUNEEB
I LOVE ALI!



Rebeka Cohan (6-6)



Peter Andrews (7-5)

LIONS
TIGERS
BULLDOGS
MARQUETTE
NY RANGERS
BLACKHAWKS

Give those Bears the beating!

I see a pattern here.

LIONS
CRIMSON
BULLDOGS
PANTHERS
RANGERS
HAWKS



Alexander Bernstein (4-8)



Minnia Feng (6-6)

ROOOOAR
CHEATERS
BULLDOGS
MARQUETTE
NY
SHARKS

No, really. Who picks these?

Let's go Manimal!

LIONS
CRIMSON
BULLDOGS
PANTHERS
CAPITALS
BLACKHAWKS



Muneeb Alam (5-7)



Melissa Cheung (6-6)

LIGHT BLUE
CHEATERS
BIG RED
MARQUETTE
RANGERS
BLACKHAWKS

Time for some momentous momentum.

Off to Provincetown

LIONS
CRIMSON
YALE
PITT
CAPS
HAWKS



Tyler Benedict (5-7)



Eric Wong (5-7)

US
HARVARD
YALE
MARQUETTE
RANGERS
BLACKHAWKS

My week... I can feel it.

FRIDAY
EAST BREAK

GAME 1:

AT



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

HIT THE BOARDS

The Bears lead the league in defensive rebounds. It is crucial for the Light Blue to challenge them on the boards and keep them off balance by proving that it can pull down offensive rebounds.

2

INJURY COMPENSATION

Whether or not Grant Mullins plays, he will still not be at full capacity. Because Brown has such a dynamic backcourt, look for someone to step up and fill the crucial gap left by his ankle injury.

3

TAKE IT TO MAIA

While Rafael Maia is truly a force inside the paint, he is prone to foul trouble. If the Lions can take it to him early, they can take him out of the game.

KEY OPPONENTS

SEAN MCGONAGILL

Sean McGonagill has made it clear that he has the Lions' number. When playing against the Light Blue in Providence, McGonagill averages 33.5 points. Last year at home, he was only two rebounds and two assists away from obtaining a triple-double.



RAFAEL MAIA

Rafael Maia is the key individual controlling the game in the key for the Bears. Maia is third in scoring for the Bears, averaging 11.1 points per game. Additionally, Maia leads his team in rebounding, averaging 7.4 per game. Amazingly, almost half of those boards have been pulled down under his own basket.



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

KEEP PLAYERS FRESH

The Bulldogs like to cycle players and give teams different looks in order to rest their key performers. In order to maintain the pace, the Lions will have to keep their players fresh.

2

BOX OUT

Similarly to the Bears, the Bulldogs are a great rebounding squad. Yale leads the league in offensive rebounds, making boxing out imperative.

3

WATCH THE PERIMETER

Last weekend, the Bulldogs were able to beat Penn and Princeton due largely to their improvement from beyond the arc. In order to prevent them from getting hot from downtown, the Lions may have to run the Bulldogs off the line.

GAME 2:



AT



KEY OPPONENTS

AUSTIN MORGAN

Austin Morgan, a senior guard and floor leader, leads the Bulldogs in scoring with 11.6 points per game. Morgan is also Yale's most lethal threat from the perimeter, hitting an average of two out of six per game. In order to stop Morgan, the Lions will have to keep track of where he is on the court at all times.



JUSTIN SEARS

Justin Sears has proven himself to be one of the best rookies in the Ivy League. He is the only other player on the Bulldogs to average double digits, netting 10.6 points per game. Sears leads his team in rebounds and is second in the Ivy League in offensive rebounds, only behind Brown's Rafael Maia.



BY THE NUMBERS

COLUMBIA

POINTS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



REBOUNDS PER GAME



FIELD GOAL PCT.



BROWN

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



YALE

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15 • PAGE 8



**COLUMBIA (10-10, 2-4 Ivy)
at BROWN (8-12, 2-4 Ivy)**

FRIDAY, 7 P.M., PROVIDENCE, R.I.

RADIO: WKCR 89.9 FM, WWDJ 970 AM
SPECTRUM.COLUMBIASPECTATOR.COM



**COLUMBIA (10-10, 2-4 Ivy)
at YALE (9-14, 3-3 Ivy)**

SATURDAY, 7 P.M., NEW HAVEN, CT

RADIO: WKCR 89.9 FM, WWDJ 970 AM
SPECTRUM.COLUMBIASPECTATOR.COM



Lions look to bounce back after their breakup

Valentine's Day is one of those holidays that many people "celebrate" that I'll never quite understand. It strikes me as an excuse to eat an excessive amount of candy and frivolously spend money on things you wouldn't on any other day of the year. And though you might call me the Scrooge of Valentine's Day, I stand by my position. But even with my negative stance on the holiday, the fact that Feb. 14 is a big day for breakups (amid the chocolatey, stuffed animal-y, and flowery goodness), came as a surprise to me.

For the Lions, Valentine's Day drama came a week early, in the form of a split from now ex-defensive coordinator and secondary coach Kevin Lempa. Lempa's reasons for dumping Columbia for the Boston College Eagles were reasonable, no doubt, so perhaps for some people, that was enough to disqualify it as a "bad breakup." That's not to say that by calling it quits, Lempa hasn't left the Light Blue in a common position for dumptees post-breakup: in dire straits, either mourning their loss or desperate for a rebound. Maybe the Lions haven't exactly hit rock bottom (after all, it was only a year-long relationship with Lempa), but they did lose something good in him, and the wound is still very fresh.

The new guy can't just be "the rebound."

Given the duration of his relationship with the Light Blue, Lempa had the time only to set the foundation for a promising future with the football program. But even in just a year's time, his efforts were reflected in the substantial improvements the defense showed in the past season. In 2011, Columbia was last in both the total and scoring defense categories in the Ivy League. By the end of this past season, the Lions had moved up four spots and one spot in each category, respectively. Obviously, there was something clicking between Lempa's defensive strategies and his athletes, thus allowing for a fruitful relationship between the two. What Lempa was able to accomplish in one season—how he was able to drag the defensive units out of the mud—will be sorely missed by the Light Blue after the end of this relationship.

Before the hiring of Pete Mangurian, former columnist Ronnie Shaban talked about finding the right head coach for the program. Just over one year later, we're now faced with the same task at the defensive coordinator position. You can't expect that any average guy is going to fit the bill. Something about their coaching strategies, their communication, and their ability to jibe with their athletes all fall under the important qualities to consider when interviewing applicants. It's all about the compatibility.

What we need to look for in Lempa's replacement is someone who can take his place and make it seem like he never left. The new guy can't just be "the rebound," serving as a consolation prize for the Light Blue, but rather has to be someone who can pick up right where Lempa left off. With that said, the new defensive coordinator must be able to adopt the same defensive system that Lempa introduced to the team, perhaps tweaking things here and there to fit his personal observations of the strengths and weaknesses of the Lions' unit as well as what he has learned from his own experience. However, a willingness to stick primarily with what has seemed to work for the Light Blue this past season, should be a key factor in determining the next guy for the job.

What we're dealing with here is a search for the man who can be a source



MELISSA CHEUNG

Closing In

Lions hope to build on momentum after defeating Harvard



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

POST PRESENCE | 6-foot-11 sophomore, Cory Osetkowski gets tough in the paint against the Big Red.

Lions still in search of first league victory

BY CAROLINE BOWMAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After falling victim to Dartmouth's dominant frontcourt play last weekend, the women's basketball team (2-17, 0-5 Ivy) will face the guard-driven offenses of league rivals Brown (7-13, 1-5 Ivy) and Yale (7-13, 2-4 Ivy) in back-to-back home games this weekend.

The Lions start their weekend on Friday night against Brown's squad, led by guards Lauren Clarke and Sheila Dixon, both of whom average in double figures for the Bears. Light Blue head coach Paul Nixon said that defending Clarke and Dixon's versatility at the guard position will be vital for the Light Blue's effort against Brown.

"I think with Sheila in particular, you just have to do a really good job of trying to make sure that she is always taking contested shots. I think that she is a very athletic player, and it's hard to keep her from getting the shot. You want to try and make sure that you challenge as much as you can, keep her in front as much as you can, and make as many of her shots difficult," Nixon said.

Defending Clarke, who leads the Bears with 14 points per game, will force the Lions to work as a cohesive defensive unit if they hope to limit her offensive production.

"I think you have to defend Lauren at the three-point line, but she is also very capable—if you're too tight on her—of putting the ball down and getting around you," Nixon said. "With her, we have to make sure we do a great job of having some people ready to rotate in help and not allow her to get all the way to the basket."

Nixon expects a similar offensive style from Yale's guards on Saturday night. Yale's guard duo of Sarah Halejian

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 6

Light Blue to host Penn and Princeton after two-week break

BY KYLE PERROTTI
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia's wrestling team (4-6, 0-1 Ivy) will resume competition after a 13-day respite due to delays caused by last week's storm. The Light Blue will be hosting Princeton (2-10, 0-3 Ivy) on Friday and the No. 23 Quakers (7-3, 2-1 Ivy) on Saturday.

The Lions kick off the action Friday evening as they take on a struggling Tigers team that finds itself trying to climb up from the bottom of the Ancient Eight.

The big match of the evening will be

contested at the 149-pound weight class, with Princeton's top wrestler, Zach Bintliff, taking on Lions senior standout Steve Santos. Santos is dominating his weight class at 18-2 and is ranked sixth in the country.

On Saturday, the Lions will have to ratchet up the intensity as they face a formidable Penn team that is sitting at second in the Ivy League. Saturday's matches will mark the 101st meeting between the two squads. The Light Blue will be fighting for its first victory over the Quakers since 2007.

The Lions take to the mat Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m. at the New York Athletic Club.

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WRESTLING



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

INTO SUBMISSION | Nick Mills attempts to pin his opponent and obtain a crucial victory. Mills will compete in both Friday's and Saturday's matches.

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For the third time this season, the Lions have a chance to turn a big win into something more.

Men's basketball (10-10, 2-4 Ivy) beat Villanova on Nov. 20, but proceeded to drop three of its next four games. A four-game losing streak also followed a big win on the road at Cornell to start Ivy play. But after soundly beating a Crimson squad on Sunday that was previously undefeated in conference play, the Light Blue once again has something to build on as it hits the road to take on Brown (8-12, 2-4 Ivy) and Yale (9-14, 3-3 Ivy) this weekend.

"I think it will be proved that that was a turning point," Columbia head coach Kyle Smith said of the win over Harvard. "But I thought maybe Villanova was, and you know Cornell, maybe that was, and it hasn't been, thus far. So, you know, we'll see."

Neither the Bears nor the Bulldogs will make it easy for the Lions to build on their momentum.

A year ago, the Lions' 94-78 loss in Providence, R.I., was by far the most lopsided of the season for Columbia, as Brown guard Sean McGonagill dropped 28 points on the Light Blue and added eight rebounds and eight assists. The Lions will need to keep the man whom Smith called their "bugaboo" under control in order to come away with a win.

With McGonagill out, the Lions handily trounced Brown 86-60 at home last season. But the last two times Columbia has traveled to Providence, McGonagill has averaged 33.5 points.

Even if the Lions do manage to hold Brown's star in check, they will need to slow down Bears guard Matt Sullivan, who is averaging 14 points per game, as

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 6

THE SLATE



MEN'S BASKETBALL
at Brown
Providence, R.I.
Friday, 7 p.m.



MEN'S BASKETBALL
at Yale
New Haven, Conn.
Saturday, 7 p.m.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Brown
Levien Gymnasium
Friday, 7 p.m.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Yale
Levien Gymnasium
Saturday, 7 p.m.



MEN'S TENNIS
ECAC Indoor Championships
Ithaca, N.Y.
Feb. 15-17



WOMEN'S SQUASH
Kurtz Cup
Northampton, Mass.
Feb. 15-17



WOMEN'S TENNIS
vs. Kansas State
Memphis, Tenn.
Saturday, 2 p.m.



MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
vs. Princeton
Uris Pool
Saturday, 1 p.m.



WRESTLING
vs. Princeton
New York Athletic Club
Friday, 7 p.m.



WRESTLING
vs. Penn
New York Athletic Club
Saturday, 3 p.m.

SEE CHEUNG, page 6

The Coney Island Polar Bear Club: Swimming in rough waters

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

What did it was the wind.

When the winter air was still I felt sane, even enthusiastic. But with the breeze biting at my bare back and legs, and the ocean stretched in front of me like a yawn, something shifted. Ironically, the wind went out of my metaphorical sails.

Regardless, three minutes later, I was shoulder-deep in the Atlantic Ocean.

If you talk to the members of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club, they'll advise you to ignore your body's initial reaction and, more importantly, keep moving.

"Do a little dance on your way in, kinda salsa in and get in under your neck," Therese Caserta, a gregarious member in her fifth year with the club, told me. "Wait for the high to hit you, then go under. And just have a good time."

I salsa. I sashay. I hop up and down. I do not go under. The point of dunking is to equalize your head and body temperatures, but people keep saying the water's a little above 40 degrees that day, and it doesn't sound quite as warm to me as they're making it out to be.

However, I'm fresh meat, and they're all veterans. Every Sunday for the past 110 years, November through April, the Polar Bears have been making the same plunge, albeit more gleefully—or, as some would say, fanatically.

Certainly, to see them huddle up on the boardwalk, you'd think you'd stumbled upon a cult. Most of the members are decked out, head-to-toe, in the club's merchandise, which ranges from a patch that many men sew onto their swim trunks to black satin baseball jackets with names embroidered on the right breast and polar bears stitched onto the back.

Other options include hats, blankets, towels, shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, and bags—and the spirit doesn't stop there. A man's parka bore the moniker "Iceman," while the t-shirt of the club's treasurer, Capri Djatiasmore, reads "Camp Sunshine: Freezin' for a Reason."

These are people that love the water and, more specifically, the icy, salty shock of the sea in winter. Coming to the Polar Bears is like coming to Jesus: Everyone has their own story. Some cite pain relief, others a natural high—but more often than not people can't put their finger on what keeps them coming back.

The club president, Dennis Thomas, has spent 30 years as a Polar Bear, after stumbling upon the bathers in 1980s Coney Island (an atmosphere he described as a "weird, threatening, scary, odd Road Warrior version of Disneyland.")

"Thought I'd do it once, never expected to make it a lifetime habit at all," he said. "But I did it that one time and though that's not so bad, I should try that again. Just kept coming back."

Djatiasmore, a tough and cool-headed open-water swimmer who joined in 2000, was a recruit from the Bears' infamous New Year's Day Plunge, which attracts thousands of participants (not to mention most major media outlets.) After her first few minutes in the water, she got scared and left, only to discover she felt revitalized. After she overheard someone mentioning that the club met weekly, the rest was history.

"I came back the next Sunday and that was it. And I've been ever since, you know," she said. Now, she's one of the few Bears who actively swims, rather than wading and splashing about.

It's a curious ritual: The swimmers circle up on the beach for a few jumping jacks and cheers, then get in the water and circle up again. There, the cheers emerge more as primal grunts—a raw, guttural cry of endurance.

The circle reconvenes in 10 minute intervals, diminishing and tightening each time. People talk and toss water-balls in between, all with oafish grins on their faces. ("You get a good high," Caserta said, and later in the water she found me and the friend I dragged along: "Are you high? You're high.")

Virtually no one is left in the water after the 30-minute circle. I stayed in for 20. As I had been promised, the blood in my feet had started to clump and freeze, and I was be-

reft of fine motor skills, trembling enough to complicate pulling on sweatpants, and forbid anything fancy like tying my sneakers.

You're gonna feel great tomorrow, everyone promised.

It's more than love, though—it's an obsession. This year, the club opened its season a month later than usual due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy, and the itch to dive back in is palpable.

"We really shouldn't be in it," Caserta said, dismissing the poor water quality. "But you know what? I really can't live without my ocean. I can't. It's been two weeks since I've been swimming and I need to go in. Like, my back needs it, my soul needs it."

It's been over three months since Sandy, whose brunt force was somewhat softened by intervening sandbars but which still caused massive flooding in Coney Island Creek. The waters spared the boardwalk but ripped down Surf Avenue, which was directly parallel. The effect was devastating, shuttering businesses that couldn't afford to repair or replace what was washed away. Though most plan to reopen in time for the season, the floods severely crippled the neighborhood.

The day I chose to go is dreary and bleak, with a thick gray fog blanketing both land and sea. Visibility is low, so the lurid colors of freak show advertisements are encountered unexpectedly and the amusement rides rise into the mist like forlorn monuments.

Above all the rides and battered apartment buildings runs the subway—trains dragging themselves back and forth along the elevated tracks like gray slugs.

The original location of Nathan's, the trademark hot dog stand and host of the infamous hot dog-eating contest, remains on the corner of Surf and Stillwell avenues, bearing banners advertising its return in the spring: "After 100 years, no hurricane will get us down."

As grim as the neighborhood feels, it isn't until talking with Coney Island History Project executive director Charles Denson that I get the full picture.

"It's a very serious blow," the Coney Island native said. "Every residence in Coney Island was damaged ... It's a poor area anyway. The community's what's really suffering."

To walk around the streets and glance at the buildings, things look run down but not annihilated. The semblance of normality makes what Denson tells me—that the real damage was not to façades but to interiors—somehow more disturbing: "You go inside someone's house and everything's completely stripped down to the bolts."

The supermarkets have just begun re-opening, but other vital public services—the post office, police station, the hospital, even some schools—still remain immobilized.

Denson's life is invested in Coney Island, where he grew and where he refused to evacuate when the storm hit. He not only heads the history project, but has written three books and made three documentaries about the area.

The storm's assault on his organization's building, on 12th street, destroyed valuable photos and other historical memorabilia, not to mention caused fundamental structural issues. This has just finished sheetrocking and doing electrical work, and has its sights set on a March 24 re-opening.

The renovated museum will feature several exhibitions, but the centerpiece will be about Sandy. The storm is now irrevocably a part of the area's history, one which Denson predicts will shape the community for several years to come.

Most deplorably, he noted, is that the hardest-hit were the charitable organizations.

"A lot of the community-based projects that really helped the poorest in this community probably won't be able to come back," he said, citing the financial hardships they faced even before the storm.

Denson's been heading rebuilding efforts, and has plans to turn the footage he captured during the storm into another documentary. At the history project, they're collecting oral histories of the storm. The tacit refrain is obvious: This is a storm that will keep raging in people's lives for a long time forward.

Hearing about the effects of the storm is sobering, enough to bring me down from the last traces of my winter-dip high.

There is no denying that this is a neighborhood adrift. But at its edges, there's a community of swimmers, relentless and devoted.

Weekly, and occasionally if there's a special occasion such as snow or a full moon, the club converges on the beach. On the regular Sundays, members start arriving to take shelter in a back room of the New York Aquarium just off the boardwalk up to two hours before the 1 p.m. swim time.

The polar bears attract a fair amount of media attention, but a strict ban on photo and video in this room means it's never captured in tape.

Although outwardly unremarkable except for the plastic swordfish and other sea life memorabilia hanging from the walls, it's in here that the character of the club really reveals itself.

People lounge in sweatpants and towels, talking among themselves while they stretch, or read the paper. In the corner, aquarium employee Peter Inesti sets up a table, which he stocks with coffee and cookies for post-swim recovery, and Sade and Bob Marley slow jam on a boombox. Inesti greets members by name as they enter, the buzz of conversation slowly mounting as the room fills.

"This is like a family," Caserta told me, and she isn't the only one to throw the f-word around: Thomas and Inesti bring it up as well.

"If you talk to other people, some people say they call this their second family, which is interesting," Thomas said. "We get people from pretty wide spectrum...a couple lawyers, teachers, plumbers, construction workers, hipsters, vegans, people covered in tattoos—I mean, a pretty wide array, and these people probably wouldn't interact socially on a day-to-day basis."

Most of the members of the Polar Bear Club aren't from the immediate neighborhood, but instead from different corners of

SEE POLAR BEAR, page B3

This Weekend in \$26

Inside...

1. **'Like Someone In Love' (\$13, p. B4)**
2. **Central Park Zoo (\$12, p. B3)**
3. **Peter Pan Donut & Pastry Shop (\$1, p. B2)**

Taking to the Turtleneck

So it looks like it will be another turtleneck-less winter. The last time I owned one was back in elementary school, when I would wear the turtleneck under a collared shirt. Thus, the turtleneck became the trademark of a younger Jonah, a layering aficionado (and dapper, to boot). I miss this.

This memory brought me to a realization that the gaping turtleneck void in my winter apparel isn't unique to me. No matter how many times I've cringed at the windburn against my not-so-jutting Adam's apple, I still have yet to enact the turtleneck solution. Besides witnessing casual, hickey-stamped lovers spontaneously sport turtlenecks for a week during 90-degree summers, it's hard to find a significant number of turtleneckers.

While runners, skiers, and snowboarders wear neck warmers, mock, or real-deal turtlenecks, it seems that the rest of us have some irrational fear of shielding our necks against the elements. Is there something sensual I've missed about neck nudity? Come on. Showing neck is about as sexy as showing your ankles in the secular Western world. So why does the full-fledged, chin hugging turtleneck remain an anomaly in our demographic's style?

Although I hardly see male college students wear turtlenecks, it is often done ironically when they do. I recently saw two guys wear turtlenecks with a blazer to a formal dance. When I offered my compliments, they looked at each other and chortled away. As they traveled around the formal together, their turtlenecks continued to spark conversations and friendly jests—precisely the attention they sought—at the cost of the turtlenecks' dignity.

Morphing and perceiving turtlenecks as an ironic costume is a mockery of a utilitarian item. Just a few of the services they could offer include extra resistance against blustering winds and camouflage for my budding neck beard.

My current reluctance toward turtlenecks could stem from a fear that I'm not sophisticated enough to wear a ribbed, cable-knit turtleneck—or that if the turtleneck isn't hiding under a dozen layers during a snowball fight, there is no place for it. I even found myself trying to reason that it would perature if I committed to a turtleneck base-layer. After wrestling my inner turmoil, I ultimately came down to the true conclusion: If I wasn't wearing it ironically, I wasn't sure I wanted to make the bold turtleneck statement.

I considered the possibility of fear by association. Maybe the tacky and outlandish turtleneck patterns of the librarians of my youth were repelling me. Whether that stigma is valid or not, turtlenecks continue to be a groundbreaking innovation. They offer me warmth, even when I forget to grab the scarf from my closet. The trend could also stem from the circular logic of societal influence. If someone is afraid to wear turtlenecks because no one wears them, then people will have no impulse to begin, leaving us in a turtleneck-less society.

I wonder why turtlenecks are so endangered in a world in which we have streamlined nearly everything. Why do we resist a conventional system of comfort, warmth and multitasking, minimizing the time and need for wrapping scarves or craning our necks in cold weather? This offers an opportunity to forget the woes of getting your scarf stuck in your temperamental coat zipper, fear of strangulation by a passerby, and even the possibility of the subway door closing on the scarf that is circled too many times around your neck.

Instead, let's pay tribute to the librarians, the morning-after hickey hidere, and the sophisticated cable-knit turtleneck sweater-wearers. All I'm saying is: Give turtlenecks a chance.

Jonah Weinstein is a Columbia College first-year. Pulling Up My Pants runs alternate Fridays.



JONAH WEINSTEIN
Pulling Up My Pants



ABBY MITCHELL FOR SPECTATOR

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA | Fall 2013 collections at New York Fashion Week featured muted tones, masculine and androgynous looks, and tweed.

Trend report: Designers overcome Nemo, shine at Fashion Week

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Fall 2013 proved to be an eventful fashion week—for both expected and unexpected reasons.

In the weeks leading up to the event, some of the biggest names in the industry announced that they wouldn't be showing collections during Fashion Week at all. Such designers—including Chris Benz, Peter Som, Rachel Roy, and Erin Fetherson—instead opted for smaller presentations or private appointments, citing high costs and low returns.

The industry was similarly rocked by the return of former Christian Dior designer John Galliano, who was fired after an anti-Semitic tirade was caught on video in 2011. Less than a month ago, designer Oscar de la Renta invited Galliano to work in his design studio in the weeks leading up to the runway show.

"John and I have known each other for many years and I am a great admirer of his talent," de la Renta said to Women's Wear Daily. "He has worked long and hard on his recovery and I am happy to give him the opportunity to reimmerse himself in the world of fashion and reacclimate in an environment where he has been so creative."

But the biggest shocker of the entire week was Nemo. Marc Jacobs was forced to postpone his show because of the inclement weather, while the glitterati found themselves trekking through the snow—although many still refused

to give up their five-inch Manolo Blahnik heels. When attending a show myself, I was worried for everyone's safety—the staff had set out big bins to catch water because the tents were leaking.

But, the show must go on, and New York Fashion Week is about the clothes, not the backstory. Unfortunately, like most college students, I don't have enough clout to get into the biggest shows. But with new innovations like streaming video on the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week website and a deluge of comments and photos streaming in on Twitter, you don't have to have a VIP pass.

A standout collection came from design duo Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez of Proenza Schouler.

From the first show at 9 a.m. Wednesday, texture and fabric became a mainstay of the shows. Derek Lam, who is better known for his use of color from last season, instead opted for a muted palate in rich brocades and thick knits. BCBG Max Azria took a more graphic approach to a similar idea, with brocades printed in stark black and white and paired with monochromatic pieces for a more modern aesthetic.

But it wasn't all brocades and shine—many

designers presented more masculine or androgynous looks for their womenswear collections this season. Ralph Lauren, which is known for its classic American style, showed tweedy suits, menswear, and blazers that evoked a Spanish flair, which felt conceptual without being costume. rag & bone, which also dabbled in menswear, spoke to a more '60s mod style, with bright colors and color-blocked ensembles.

A standout collection came from design duo Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez of Proenza Schouler. It was refined and tailored in a beautifully sophisticated way, with a simple palette of black, white, and gray. The seaming and cut of each piece was so simple and elegant that you wanted to grab it off of the runway and wear it home.

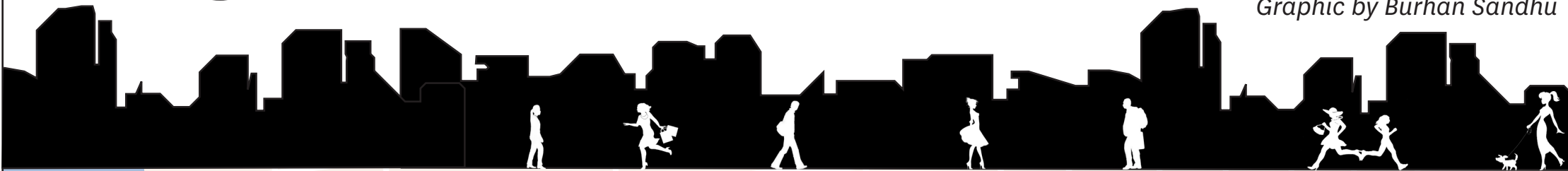
Working in a similar color range, the Calvin Klein presentation came out of a very interesting inspiration. Designer Francisco Costa explained to Women's Wear Daily that he was inspired by a '60s Russian film. The show was somewhat stark and military, with slimmer silhouettes than many other of this week's designers.

Overall, it was a very serious fashion week. Shows like Rebecca Minkoff's, with live music and slinky runway walks, gave a much-needed sense of fun and youth to this season. Suffice to say we were far from the frothy, girly looks that ruled the runways last season. But fashion is all about change, and this year, with all its drama, was no different.

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Neighborhood Watch

By Christin Zurbach
Graphic by Burhan Sandhu



WORD BOOKSTORE

126 Franklin St.
This small neighborhood independent bookstore has a well-curated selection and helpful staff. Stop by for book suggestions, signed books by locals, or its stationary. Best of all are its signature events, which range from a midnight Murakami selling to a David Foster Wallace Appreciation Society.

SLODYCZE WEDEL

772 Manhattan Ave. (between Meserole Avenue & Calyer Street)
This colorful candy shop is a bit like a box of Bertie Bott's every flavored beans. Since this shop sells Polish candies, you may not know what sweets you are purchasing, but that is part of the fun. If you are not in the mood for Polish roulette, try Sliwki w czekoladzie (chocolate-coated plums) or chocolate wafers by Prince Polo.

CAFÉ GRUMPY

193 Meserole Ave. (at Diamond Street)
Greenpoint was the first of this well-loved coffee chain's locations. Although expensive, this location is also home to the Café Grumpy Roastery, so you can be assured of the freshness of your coffee. A great place to study, exchange books, eat vegan snacks, and drink quality coffee. Fun Fact: Hannah from HBO's Girls works here in Season 1.

PETER PAN DONUT & PASTRY SHOP

727 Manhattan Ave.
This is your mom and dad's donut shop—with its '50s decor, cash-only policy, and hole-less donuts, Peter Pan has a sense of history. Grab an egg cream, a milkshake-like milk and soda water combination allegedly invented in Brooklyn, and an old fashioned donut. Try to arrive on the earlier side and don't be surprised if there is a line for these destination donuts.

LOMZYNIANKA

646 Manhattan Ave.
Greenpoint is the place for Polish food, and this small, homey restaurant feels like your grandmother's kitchen. The borscht is the best in the city, and if you are relatively new to Polish cuisine, try the platter, which includes pierogies, kielbasa, golumpki (stuffed cabbage), and bigos (beef stew).



Best of

Polar Bears

Question: Which bear is best? In case you like polar bears beary, beary much we’ve compiled a list of other ways for you to sweat out your ursine fever. —BY JENNY PAYNE

Alfred Kubin’s polar bear

Austrian artist Alfred Kubin’s ink on paper drawing “Polar Bear” (or, in its mother tongue, “Eisbär”) graces the Museum of Modern Art with its depiction of a less bear-y, more ferret-y polar bear lying on a glacier on its belly. (Sort of like what we were all doing last weekend during Nemo, right? Or is that not how sledding works?) It’s up to the viewer to decide the fate of the house that the bear looks down upon. Is it being watched over by the furry friend, or about to become its dinner?



ILLUSTRATION BY IONE WANG

Stefon Harris and Blackout to close Miller Theatre jazz series

BY DAVID ECKER
Spectator Staff Writer

After a season featuring Christian McBride, Rudresh Mahanthappa, and Wycliffe Gordon, Miller Theatre closes out its 2012-13 jazz series with Stefon Harris and Blackout this Saturday. The season has been a mix of the traditional and the unexpected—and with Harris, it culminates in both. Trained in both classical and jazz at the Manhattan School of Music, Harris refuses to be limited by genre, preferring to let the music speak for itself. Blackout consists of Marc Cary on piano, Casey Benjamin on sax, Ben Williams on bass, and Terreon Gully on drums, and incorporates diverse elements from jazz and hip hop to create a new and infectious sound. Spectator talked with Harris about his life, music, and philosophy.

DAVID ECKER: What would you say sparked your initial interest in jazz?
STEFON HARRIS: I think it has to do with my personality. I started off playing primarily classical music, but I’m kind of a free spirit, and when I first started hearing jazz and started watching other people play, I just loved the freedom that was present in the culture of that music. It’s a music that is about the moment. It’s about authenticity. It’s not about recreating a sound from the past—it’s about putting forth the sound of today. It’s also about joy and making people in the audience feel good, which is something I loved about the jazz I heard when I first got to college.

DE: Why do you think jazz enjoys such a prominence on college cam puses?
SH: It’s probably the most pliable form of music in existence. There are all different types of approaches to the music, but the one thing that holds it all together is that it’s about empathy. Because of the improvisation, you are required to understand the people around

Gus, the Central Park polar bear

Gus is a local hero who New Yorkers can really relate to. He has been found by animal psychologists to be neurotic, depressed, and lonely after the loss of his partner-in-crime and lover, Ida. His various psychological disorders have captured the attention of many over the past two years, even prompting Canadian rock band The Tragically Hip to write a song about him (lyrics include: “What’s troubling Gus / You sound demented”). If you find yourself lonely this Valentine’s weekend, take a trip to Central Park and commiserate with New York’s favorite Arctic-born lonely heart. Tickets are \$12.

International Polar Bear Day

Feb. 27 not only marks the part of February when you start getting confused about when it actually ends, but also is International Polar Bear Day. The awareness-raising holiday began as an effort to raise awareness about our increasingly endangered friends of the Arctic and promote discussion about how and why we should work to save the species. If a trip to the tundra is out of your budget, then watch the 2007 documentary “Arctic Tale” from your computer. Is the adorableness of baby polar bears not enough of a reason?

Tastes like home

With Valentine’s Day and the Super Bowl behind us, two of my favorite event-based food phenomena have passed (goodbye, chocolate-covered everything and chili). February has also been a home-sick month for me. With Nemo, flu scares, my team playing in the Super Bowl—and losing (sniff, sniff)—I’ve definitely been missing the comforts of home. Consistent heating and Campbell’s Chicken Soup aside, one of the things I miss most is the food I grew up with.

As a Midwestern transplant who moved to Massachusetts and now lives in California, I never know what to tell people my home is. My home has never been a place—it has always been the food I eat and the people I love, with whom I can share the food. Though I love eating Domino’s with my suit-mates, I do get pretty homesick sometimes. And because I can’t fly home that often, eating familiar food is often the next best thing.

I try to recreate the soul food that my grandmother cooks, such as the greens, the cornbread, and the seven-layer salads. Since my cooking is still rudimentary (anyone want pasta?), I tend to search for soul food in restaurants rather than in my own kitchen. However, in the land of trendy, global, and gourmet, down-home southern food is few and far between.

Although it is absolutely important to try new things and what-not, sometimes nothing hits the spot like some genuine soul food.

I’m originally from St. Louis, and my grandparents hail from the South, so I can spot a good soul food restaurant from a mile away. Not actually a mile, because I’m near-sighted, but you know what I mean. New York is filled with so many bougie, hipster “neo-soul” restaurants that it is an actual feat to separate the chicken fried wheat from the gentrified chaff.

There are a few superficial things I look for on a menu before even trying a new place. One: fried chicken. Real fried chicken, with grease, and no terrible things like “pan fried in olive oil” or “baked, not fried!” Those things are fine and sometimes downright delicious, but they are turnoffs when I want some genuine southern cooking.

Two: complimentary cornbread. Soft, hot, not-too-sweet, and not-too-corny cornbread. I’m not picky—corn muffins are fine too, but cornbread is the warm buttery roll of the south.

And last but certainly not least: dessert. Homemade cakes and pies, especially red velvet, are a must. And crumbly, sweet fruity cobblers are a nice touch too. Although you might be too full to eat it there, there’s nothing like taking a slice of apple pie home and eating it microwaved with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Tastes like home.

My tried and true favorite? Amy Ruth’s Chicken and Waffles, between 116th and 117th streets. With cute entrée names like “The President Barack Obama” and entire waffle menu that varies from classic chicken and waffles (“The Rev. Al Sharpton”) to waffles with fried shrimp (“The Jennifer Holiday”), Amy Ruth’s simply takes the proverbial cake. It helps that its actual cake is delicious too. I’ve been to Amy Ruth’s on Easter and Thanksgiving. On Sundays, the line extends beyond the door with locals in their Sunday best and curious tourists alike. The staff is always kind and helpful, a great playlist of soul and R&B classics is always playing, and the food—oh, the food!

Cinnamon-y, soft, perfectly browned waffles. Totally cheesy, creamy, mac. Soft (complimentary!) cornbread. And delicious, well-seasoned, fried chicken, fish, and shrimp. It’s the closest to home I’ve found north of the Mason-Dixon line.

Although it is absolutely important to try new things and whatnot, sometimes nothing hits the spot like some genuine soul food. And to my friends from far away places—whether you are German, Italian, Eritrean, Brazilian, you can find your New York home food too. It takes some trial and error, but it is definitely worth it. Happy eating, y’all!

Krista White is a Columbia College junior majoring in theater. Noshing on the Big Apple runs alternate Fridays.



KRISTA WHITE

Noshing on the Big Apple

you first, before you play whatever it is you want to play.

DE: Speaking of empathy, let’s talk about Blackout, the group accompanying you in the upcoming performance at Miller Theatre. Which came first, the concept or the band members?
SH: I would basically say that the band members are the concept. I feel a connection with a certain group of musicians, bring them together, and allow them to create authentically. So whatever comes from them, you let your ego get out of the way, and the concept itself will be revealed through the authenticity of the other musicians. If you looked at the discography of each of the musicians, you’d realize that each of them had been playing this way throughout their career—it’s just that I brought that combination of musicians together and allowed them to do what it is they do naturally.

DE: Do you find that there’s a connection between what you listen to and what you naturally create?
SH: I think that what you ingest is definitely not a direct correlation to what you create. I actually think creativity is very overrated. To me, creativity is a by-product of authenticity. You can absorb a ton of things, but it’s not going to come out of you if it’s not who you are.

DE: If the past is any indication, there’s going to be a lot of enthusiastic music students in the audience on Feb. 16. Do you have any advice for them regarding a life in music?
SH: The most important element in my career has been a strong focus on vision, and having a very clear vision of what it is that I want first. I dream really big, and work backwards from there. I chop it up into categories and start trying to figure out how I’m going to achieve that vision. Without that vision, you



COURTESY OF YAMAHA

JAZZ | Blackout will accompany Stefon Harris (above) at a performance at Miller on Feb. 16.

can absorb a lot of information, play great, but find that it’s not connection to passion. Passion is a by-product of vision, and then discipline is a by-product of passion. If you find that you’re just working hard for the sake of working hard and you don’t love what you’re doing, you’re probably not doing the right thing.

Tickets are on sale at the Miller Theatre Box office and online.

This interview has been condensed and edited. arts@columbiaspectator.com

A century later, Polar Bear enthusiasts still venturing into subzero water at Coney Island

POLAR BEAR from page B1

the city. Some devotees even make the pilgrimage from as far away as Connecticut or New Jersey to join in the revelry.

Caserta, whose commute from Queens takes about a half-hour, is Facebook friends with a man from Arizona who took a guest swim with the Bears at the beginning of the season. “I think he’s going to move to New York to join the club,” she said, dead serious. “He’s automatically an addict, just like that.”

A young woman in the club, Brynna Tucker, isn’t so keen on the long journey, and organized her life accordingly. “I actually picked where I lived based on that. I was trying to buy a place and I was looking at Harlem ... and Brooklyn, and the Harlem commute is tough.”

Tight-knit as it is now, the club wasn’t always in such happy condition.

Before, like when Thomas joined, the group

was small (“16, old weird guys”) and the location unsteady. Reliant on the city to provide lifeguard stands as changing rooms, the bathers ping-ponged up and down the boardwalk, even settling over at Brighton Beach for a while. Membership dwindled.

“I’d look around and see eight, 10 people swimming each week, saying, ‘This thing is just gonna die, that’s sad,’” Thomas said. The club was scraping bottom, and things looked bleak, though some new members helped revitalize it in the early 2000s. It was the dawn of

ONLINE



Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibCRqBE3AU4>.

digital media that helped the Polar bears evade extinction.

“Even stupid things like putting up a website and being more visible has helped,” Thomas said. “Coney Island is coming back. It’s been in the press all over the world ... People are more aware of this area.”

Now, the Bears face a much different danger: popularity.

Club membership now sits just south of 200, with about half of those members turning out on an average week.

“The club is too big,” Caserta complained. “It used to be, like, really close, but now we don’t even know people.”

The fear of overexpanding the club into something impersonal, along with safety considerations, was the main drive behind closing membership for the season, though outsiders are still welcome to take their one free guest swim.

“People weren’t knowing who other people

were and weren’t relating and you know, we just thought, let’s take a year off, let everyone swim together, get to know each other,” Thomas said.

So just as the Polar Bears, natives of the sea, are hitting their peak, Coney Island is scrambling to resurface.

The Polar Bears have hit their own highs and lows in over a century of existence, but they’re still there. Their patches of endangerment, of seeking shelter under the boardwalk, of swimming nearly alone only for the love of it, are weighed out. When it’s sink or swim, they swim.

After 110 years, no hurricane will get them down.

The Coney Island Polar Bears allow one guest swim, free of charge. They meet at the New York Aquarium every Sunday, November through April. Swim time is 1 p.m. The Coney Island History Project, located at 3059 W. 12th St., will tentatively reopen on March 24.

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Flipside Guide

‘Like Someone in Love’

Latest Kiarostami flick offers profound meditation on love

BY OLADUNNI ODUYEMI
Columbia Daily Spectator

If Valentine’s Day is about ostentation, the box office’s newest offering presents a subtler depiction of love. “Like Someone in Love,” the latest film by acclaimed Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami, is a profound meditation on loneliness and relationships.

In Japanese and set in Tokyo, the film follows Akiko, a young prostitute (Rin Takanashi), and her relationship with Watanabe, an old widower (Tadashi Okuno). He resists her efforts to seduce him, and the two end up spending a day together, during which they form an innocent bond. Despite their surprising differences and generational gap, the voids left by the lack of love in both of their lives draw them to one another, and the intertwinement of their paths seems, in only 24 hours, to change their lives.

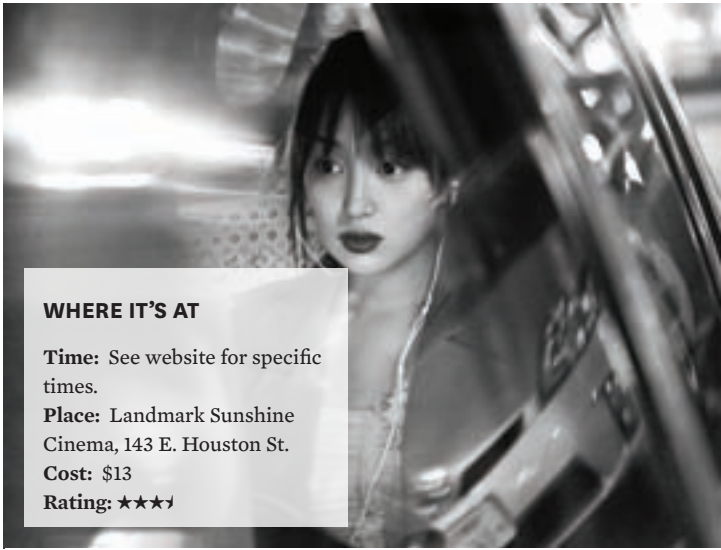
The journey of the characters reveals a constant theme of waiting, yet also emphasizes the importance of patience. The characters spend most of their lives waiting, in a variety of contexts. In one instance, Akiko’s grandmother travels to Tokyo to see her and spends the day waiting for her at the train station, even though they never meet. Another heartbreaking sequence shows a guilty Akiko being driven to a client as she listens to the voicemails that her grandmother, ever hopeful that she will meet her granddaughter, has left. More importantly, Watanabe and Akiko have been waiting for each other for all their lives without even realizing it—he had been waiting for someone to care for since his wife’s passing, and she had been waiting for someone to remind her that she deserves better than the life she is living.

Kiarostami’s direction and the screenplay are nothing short of poetic. Each character—even Akiko’s unlikable fiancé—is rendered with sensitivity and tenderness. Signs of Akiko’s innocence and vulnerability—a stark contrast to the façade of wantonness required by her job—are omnipresent, from her inability to grasp certain jokes to her pink-tipped nails. The endearing Watanabe is imbued with a longing for companionship that allows him to grow attached to Akiko extremely quickly. The actors are wholly convincing in their roles, and their dynamic is beautifully at ease, but also tinged with sadness. Each seems to be deriving more pleasure and comfort from a total stranger than they do from those nearest to them.

Kiarostami is truly creative in his use of sounds. The jazz-based soundtrack from which the film derives its title sets a mellow and soothing tone fully embodied by the protagonists. Kiarostami puts an emphasis on the telephone as something that interrupts the placidity of their lives. It disrupts Akiko’s life quite literally—after all, she is a call girl—and it constantly rings off the hook for Watanabe.

When Watanabe and Akiko first meet, they share a conversation about a famous painting of a girl with a parrot. Watanabe says of the painting, “The subject is Japanese, but the style is Western. That’s why it’s special.” The same could most definitely be said about the film, whose themes recall Sofia Coppola’s “Lost in Translation” and Jake Scott’s “Welcome to the Riley’s” while remaining true to its Japanese setting and portrayal of the culture. But it far exceeds these works based on its own precise vision.

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COURTESY OF IFC FILMS

LOVE GAME | Abbas Kiarostami’s “Like Someone in Love,” follows a young prostitute and her relationship with a widower.



WHERE IT’S AT

Time: See website for specific times. The show runs through March 1.
Place: Lincoln Center Plaza
Cost: Tickets start at \$30
Rating: ★½

COURTESY OF KEN HOWARD / METROPOLITAN OPERA

BIZET | The Metropolitan Opera presented a revival of “Carmen” the night after Nemo struck. The show runs through March 1.

‘Carmen’ Metropolitan Opera presents lackluster version of classic

BY CHRIS BROWNER
Spectator Opera Critic

The circumstances surrounding the Metropolitan Opera’s Feb. 9 presentation of Georges Bizet’s “Carmen” could easily have been found in another dramatic opera plot. After Nemo battered the Northeast only a night before, “Carmen” returned to the Met’s stage after an earlier run of performances last September and October. The evening marked the debut of Austrian tenor Nikolai Schukoff and also witnessed two last-minute cast changes of major roles. Despite all of these exciting offstage factors, the performance itself did not do full justice to the searing intensity of this operatic warhorse.

Mezzo-soprano Anita Rachvelishvili’s famous portrayal of the alluring title gypsy to this role with a robust, expansive tone. The low end of her range is particularly assertive and enjoyable. Despite her nuanced singing of the role, the Georgian mezzo puts forth a characterization at times that seems to lack true dimensions.

As Don José, a Spanish corporal whose enchantment with Carmen results in the opera’s fatal end, debutant Schukoff

brought a compact and focused sound to this passionate role. His performance was understandably tentative early on, and the role seemed quite taxing on his voice’s middle range. But Schukoff displayed impressive vocal prowess when his instrument was allowed to blossom into bold, confident high notes. “Flower Song,” in Act II, was particularly effective.

Filling in for an ailing colleague, veteran baritone Dwayne Croft was a forceful, if sometimes stiff, Escamillo, the toreador. To portray his character’s arrogant and lustful nature, Croft sang with a rich, aggressive timbre. Also stepping in on short notice, soprano Hei-Kyung Hong conveyed lyrical beauty and purity of tone in her portrayal of Micaëla, the virtuous foil to Carmen’s seductiveness. Although her character has only two appearances in the opera, this soprano brought a powerful presence and soaring clarity to her brief moments on stage.

With excitingly sung performances, Danielle Pastin (Frasquita) and Scot Scully (Remendado) stood out among a cast of smaller supporting roles. Under the baton of maestro Michele Mariotti, the Met Opera Orchestra drew a well-executed, though at times overly drawn-out, interpretation of Bizet’s familiar score.

Although individual performances stood out, the presentation as a whole lacked a creative spark necessary to ignite this smoldering drama. Few of the performers delivered greatly inventive or compelling portrayals. Although this was not a stunning revival of Bizet’s masterpiece, the opera itself still has enough energy to intrigue and compel audiences. “Carmen” is an especially appropriate opera for newcomers, who will find in it a thrilling story played out among a host of hummable tunes.

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Café Tallulah New French restaurant on Upper West Side underwhelms in cuisine

BY SARAH ROHRSCHEIDER
Columbia Daily Spectator

The sound of French music playing in Café Tallulah, the French eatery that opened on the Upper West Side on Jan. 25, seemed promising. But when the music switched to Amy Winehouse, I began to wonder. This mixed musical fare wasn’t all that different from my culinary experience to come.

Despite the weird soundtrack, Café Tallulah manages to create a French vibe in its decor—wrought iron resembling the patterns on the Eiffel Tower lines the top of the shelves by the bar. The wood and leather barstools and chairs, as well as the restaurant’s distressed vintage-looking mirrors, add a nice bohemian touch. The lighting was cozy and dim, and the candlelight added a soft glow.

But I soon realized that although the café had a sleek exterior, it was trying too hard to seem like a five-star restaurant. Instead, the fare was mediocre. Café Tallulah is not exactly in the “let’s-go-get-a-bite-to-eat”

price-range—if you want an entrée that is expensive and fairly small or an appetizer more than \$10, this is your type of place.

Though the restaurant did offer traditional French food like moules-frites, I could have ordered an overly priced burger and wondered why they topped it with brie, pear, egg, bacon, and onions, instead. I ended up ordering a salad and a white chocolate, egg yolk, crème fraîche, and caviar ravioli dish, just to see what in the world that was like.

Café Tallulah offered a new, deconstructed take on the salad. The croutons were on one corner of the plate, the salad in another, and lardon (French bacon) and an egg occupied the other two corners. But the salad (and the ravioli, which tasted like a raw egg wrapped in a noodle) were extremely heavy on the egg. Though still priced moderately high, the appetizers seemed more worthwhile than the expensive, small, unexceptional entrées.

Aside from the underwhelming dishes, the atmosphere is still nice for conversation, especially if you sit at the bar. If you want a classy drink and an appetizer with a good friend or a date, this is not a bad place to go. But, if you prefer cozier restaurants that have good food for cheaper prices, you would probably have a more enjoyable evening somewhere else.

Café Tallulah is at 240 Columbus Ave. and is open every day from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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